



Los Angeles City Ethics Commission

February 25, 2014

The Honorable City Council
c/o Holly Wolcott, Interim City Clerk
200 North Spring Street
City Hall – 3rd Floor
Los Angeles CA 90012

**Re: Council File Number 14-0168
Appointment of Eli Lipmen to the
Board of Neighborhood Commissioners**

FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

Dear Councilmembers:

On February 4, 2014, the Mayor transmitted to the City Clerk a letter indicating his appointment of Mr. Eli Lipmen to the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners. The Ethics Commission received Mr. Lipmen's pre-confirmation statement of economic interests (SEI) on February 21, 2014, and his letter is provided for your consideration as part of the confirmation process. A copy of this letter is also being provided to Mr. Lipmen to help him avoid potential conflicts of interests that may arise in the course of his tenure as a member of Board of Neighborhood Commissioners.

Mr. Lipmen reports on his SEI salary income from the American Jewish Committee, where he serves as an advocacy campaign and communications strategist. He also discloses his spouse's income from the North American Federation of Temple Youth. If a matter involving either of these interests comes before the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners, Mr. Lipmen should, before acting, seek the advice of the City Attorney regarding whether he should disqualify himself. We are unable to assess if or how frequently Mr. Lipmen would be in a position of having to recuse himself.

Interests disclosed on an SEI are not the only interests that can give rise to a conflict of interests. For example, state law may require recusal by a board or commission member due to certain business activities of the clients of that member's employer. Additionally, recusal may be required under City Charter § 222, which states that the City Attorney may provide a written opinion concerning the obligation of a City official to refrain from acting on a matter when it may violate state law or when action may not be in the public interest.

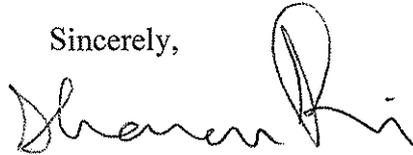
If a matter raises a potential conflict of interests, we encourage Mr. Lipmen to seek the advice of the City Attorney before acting. If Mr. Lipmen is required to disqualify himself from acting on a matter, Los Angeles Municipal Code § 49.5.6(J) and Executive Directive 2005-1 require him to file a Recusal Notification Form (CEC Form 51) with the Ethics Commission and the Mayor's office. If a board or commission member is disqualified from acting on three or more agenda items in a year because of a conflict caused by the same interest, the Ethics Commission is required by City Charter § 707 to review the conflict. If the Ethics Commission

determines that the member has a significant and continuing conflict of interests, it must order divestment of the interest that is causing the conflict.

In addition to filing SEIs, nominees also file Residence Verification Forms. We have received a completed form from Mr. Lipmen, which states that he is registered to vote in the City.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at (213) 978-1960.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shannon Prior". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "S" and "P".

Shannon Prior
Ethics Program Manager

cc: Mayor Eric Garcetti
Mr. Eli Lipmen



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c/o Holly Wolcott, Interim City Clerk
200 North Spring Street
City Hall – 3rd Floor
Los Angeles CA 90012

**Re: Council File Number 14-0179
Appointment of Marcie Edwards as the General Manager of the
Department of Water and Power**

FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

Dear Councilmembers:

On February 5, 2014, the Board of Water and Power Commissioners transmitted to the City Clerk a letter indicating the appointment of Ms. Marcie Edwards as the General Manager of the Department of Water and Power. The Ethics Commission received Ms. Edwards' pre-confirmation statement of economic interests (SEI) on February 20, 2014 and the City Council confirmed her appointment on February 21, 2014. This letter is provided for inclusion in the City Council file. A copy of this letter is also being provided to Ms. Edwards to help her avoid potential conflicts of interests that may arise in the course of her tenure as the General Manager of Department of Water and Power.

Ms. Edwards does not report any investments, income sources, or interests in real property on his SEI. However, interests disclosed on an SEI are not the only interests that can give rise to a conflict of interests. Recusal may be required under City Charter § 222, for example, which states that the City Attorney may provide a written opinion concerning the obligation of a City official to refrain from acting on a matter when doing so may not be in the public interest or may violate state law. If a matter raises a potential conflict of interests, we encourage Ms. Edwards to seek the advice of the City Attorney before acting.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at (213) 978-1960.

Sincerely,

Shannon Prior
Ethics Program Manager

cc: Board of Water and Power Commissioners
Ms. Marcie Edwards